



April 27, 2012

#### **This Week:**

- Second new 144-car ferry in progress
- Mukilteo Ferry Terminal Project meeting
- LNG meeting
- AWV agency coordination meeting
- VRS partnership meeting
- Reminder: fare changes begin May 1
- Anacortes/San Juan Islands customers: Tour De Lopez bicycle event this weekend
- Mark your calendar: Mariners ferry fan night is back!
- Customer compliment
- More ferry tales

#### **Second new 144-car ferry in progress**

Construction will begin in December on a second 144-car ferry. On Tuesday, WSF and shipbuilder [Vigor Industrial](#) signed papers to make the second new vessel a reality for customers of the state ferry system. This is another important step toward revitalizing our aging fleet. These new boats will ensure we have modern vessels to continue giving our passengers safe and reliable service. We estimate that the first new [144-car ferry](#) will start service in early 2014, and the second ferry early 2015. Construction cost for both vessels is \$225 million, and the total cost is \$277 million, including owner-furnished equipment, construction management and contingencies. Work on the two vessels will produce more than 500 family-wage jobs at shipyards in the region. The much needed 144-car ferries will replace vessels in the [Evergreen State class](#), which are the oldest ferries in the state fleet.

#### **Mukilteo Ferry Terminal Project meeting**

On Monday, as part of tribal consultations, I joined the Federal Transit Administration at a meeting with the Swinomish regarding the [Mukilteo Ferry Terminal Multimodal Project](#). The purpose of the meeting was to receive comments and input regarding this vital project.

#### **LNG meeting**

On Tuesday, I had an informative discussion with representatives from Puget Sound Energy regarding WSF's interest in [liquefied natural gas](#) (LNG) as a potential fuel for the fleet. It was good to spend time with a local business to discuss future opportunities.

#### **AWV Agency Coordination meeting**

I met with representatives of the Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) project team on Tuesday to continue our discussions about AWV construction and to ensure that access to and from Colman dock is properly maintained for ferry customers. I mentioned last week that WSF customer service representatives and AWV project team members have been out on the Seattle/Bainbridge Island and Seattle/Bremerton ferries to speak to customers about the upcoming changes. If you are a customer of Colman dock, please make sure you [sign up](#) to receive email alerts from WSF with important travel information. To follow construction progress, visit the [AWV replacement program website](#).

#### **VRS partnership meeting**

On Wednesday night, I met with the Port Townsend/Coupeville Partnership to discuss the next steps towards improving the vehicle reservations system (VRS). I really want to thank the Partnership members

for contributing their valuable time, providing input, and helping us identify and resolve issues. WSF is upgrading the existing VRS on the Port Townsend/Coupeville and Anacortes/Sidney, B.C. routes, and commercial-only reservations on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route. Changes will be in place for summer schedule. For more information and to read materials from the partnership meeting, visit the [project Web page](#).

#### **Reminder: fare changes begin May 1**

Beginning Tuesday, May 1, WSF will implement an across-the-board, three-percent fare increase on all fare types to help cover operating costs and meet revenue targets. In addition, from May 1-Sept. 30 the peak season surcharge will be in effect, with a 25 percent increase on single-ticket vehicle fares on all routes, except for the San Juan Islands where they will increase 35 percent. Also beginning May 1 the discount for vehicles shorter than 14 feet increases from 10 percent to 20 percent of the standard-sized vehicle fare. Smaller vehicles are still subject to the three percent fare increase and seasonal surcharge. For details, read the [new fares brochure](#).

#### **Anacortes/San Juan Islands customers: Tour De Lopez bicycle event this weekend**

This Saturday, April 28, WSF will make two extra stops at Lopez Island to accommodate participants in the annual Tour De Lopez, the largest bicycle event in the San Juan Islands, which is expected to draw 950 riders. The extra stops will occur Saturday morning on the 7:35 a.m. sailing departing Anacortes (8:20 a.m. arrival at Lopez) and the 8:30 a.m. sailing departing Anacortes (9:15 a.m. arrival at Lopez).

#### **Mark your calendar: Mariners ferry fan night is back!**

Customers and employees of Washington State Ferries have their own weekend at Safeco Field. Round up your friends and family members and join the Seattle Mariners for Washington State Ferries Night on August 17, 18, and 19! Special discounted group seating has been reserved and is available for you to purchase on the [Seattle Mariners' website](#).

#### **Customer compliment**

I received the following compliment from a customer of the Anacortes/Sidney, B.C. route regarding WSF Information Agent Lynne Corgatelli's excellent customer service.

*I just returned home from moving my sailboat from Anacortes, WA, overland some 4,600 km, to Port Whitby Marina in Whitby, Ontario... I wanted to say thank you for all your assistance with organizing my truck/trailer reservation for March 29th, on the WA Ferry from Sidney, BC to Anacortes, WA. On the day I made my reservations through you from my hotel room in Vancouver, BC, your timely call back to advise me of the confirmation and special fare details went above and beyond all my expectations. As it turned out I towed an empty trailer, was under 60 feet, paid full fare and was happy to do so. I want to commend you for your attention to service. You represent the kind of dedicated employee DOTWA needs to be told about and they need to appreciate your ability when dealing with customers. I am very grateful for all your help.*

#### **More ferry tales**

Read the latest posts: [My First Earthquake](#)

#### **Next Week:**

- WSDOT senior managers meeting
- [144-car ferry](#) progress meeting
- [Mukilteo ferry terminal project](#) meeting
- Meeting with the city of Edmonds

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).

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